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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the Union of South American Nations in the General Assembly

Letter dated 24 June 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, in its capacity as the pro tempore President of the Union of South American Nations, I have the honour, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status in the General Assembly for the Union of South American Nations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum in support of the above-mentioned request (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) George **Talbot**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

11-39893 (E) 070711

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. General introduction

1. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) was officially established on 23 May 2008, with the signing of its Constitutive Treaty, after several years of complex negotiations at the highest political level.

2. Previously referred to as the South American Community of Nations, the Presidents of South American nations agreed to change the name of the organization in 2007 to the Union of South American Nations, indicating a commitment to the political union of those republics and the construction of a South American citizenship, with a long-term strategic vision for enhanced integration.

3. In addition to working resolutely towards the unity of all South American nations and their peoples, the Union aims to strengthen the international presence of the region and to actively participate in the consolidation of the world community, characterized by well-being, multilateralism, the rule of law, peace and international solidarity.

II. Principles and objectives

4. Article 2 of the Constitutive Treaty of the Union outlines its overarching objective, which is to build, in a participatory and consensual manner, an integration and union among its peoples in the cultural, social, economic and political fields, prioritizing political dialogue, social policies, education, energy, infrastructure, financing and the environment, among other aspects, with a view to eliminating socio-economic inequality, in order to achieve social inclusion and participation of civil society, strengthen democracy and reduce asymmetries, within the framework of strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the States.

5. The specific objectives are outlined in article 3 of the Treaty, as follows:

(a) The strengthening of the political dialogue among Member States to guarantee a space for consultation in order to reinforce South American integration and the participation of UNASUR in the international arena;

(b) Inclusive and equitable social and human development in order to eradicate poverty and overcome inequalities in the region;

(c) The eradication of illiteracy, universal access to quality education and regional recognition of courses and titles;

(d) Energy integration for the integral and sustainable use of the resources of the region, in a spirit of solidarity;

(e) The development of an infrastructure for the interconnection of the region and among our peoples, based on sustainable social and economic development criteria;

(f) Financial integration through the adoption of mechanisms compatible with the economic and fiscal policies of Member States;

(g) The protection of biodiversity, water resources and ecosystems, as well as cooperation in the prevention of catastrophes and in combating the causes and effects of climate change;

(h) The development of concrete and effective mechanisms to overcome asymmetries, thus achieving an equitable integration;

(i) The consolidation of a South American identity through the progressive recognition of the rights of nationals of a Member State resident in any of the other Member States, with the aim of attaining a South American citizenship;

(j) Universal access to social security and health services;

(k) Cooperation on issues of migration with a holistic approach, based on an unrestricted respect for human and labour rights, for migratory regularization and harmonization of policies;

(l) Economic and commercial cooperation to achieve progress and consolidation of an innovative, dynamic, transparent, equitable and balanced process focused on an effective access, promoting economic growth and development to overcome asymmetries by means of the complementarities of the economies of the countries of South America, as well as the promotion of the well-being of all sectors of the population and the reduction of poverty;

(m) Industrial and productive integration, focusing especially on the important role that small and medium-size enterprises, cooperatives, networks and other forms of productive organizations may play;

(n) The definition and implementation of common or complementary policies and projects of research, innovation, technological transfer and technological production, aimed at enhancing the region's own capacity, sustainability and technological development;

(o) The promotion of cultural diversity and the expression of the traditions and knowledge of the peoples of the region, in order to strengthen their sense of identity;

(p) Citizen participation through mechanisms for interaction and dialogue between UNASUR and the various social actors in the formulation of South American integration policies;

(q) Coordination among specialized bodies of the Member States, taking into account international norms, in order to strengthen the fight against corruption, the global drug problem, trafficking in persons, trafficking in small and light weapons, terrorism, transnational organized crime and other threats, as well as for disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and the elimination of landmines;

(r) The promotion of cooperation among the judicial authorities of the Member States of UNASUR;

(s) The exchange of information and experiences in matters of defence;

(t) Cooperation for the strengthening of citizen security;

(u) Sectoral cooperation as a mechanism to deepen South American integration through the exchange of information, experiences and capacity-building.

6. The Union embodies the firm commitment of its Member States to fostering a process of comprehensive and multidimensional union that, without disregarding the incorporation of the important advances achieved by the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Andean Community, goes beyond the intensification of trade and the broadening of markets in order to move towards the construction of a South American identity and citizenship and the development of an integrated regional space.

7. The organization also seeks to strengthen Latin America and the Caribbean through South American unity, projecting itself to the world as a block of countries with a shared mission to contribute to the consolidation of an international community based on multilateralism and the rule of law, where sovereign equality among the States and a culture of peace, solidarity and cooperation prevail.

III. Structure

8. Pursuant to the Constitutive Treaty, the principal bodies of the Union are: the Council of Heads of State and Government, which is the main body of the Union, responsible for the political conduction of the South American integration process; the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which implements the decisions of the Council of Heads of State and Government and develops and furthers political dialogue and consensus on topics of regional and international interest; the Council of Delegates, which implements the decisions of the Council of Heads of State and Government and the resolutions of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs; and the General Secretariat, which executes the mandates issued by the bodies of the Union and represents them by express delegation.

9. In addition, the Union functions with seven councils on the following themes: energy, defence, health, social development, education, culture, science, technology and innovation, as well as two working groups on financial integration and the settlement of investment-related disputes.

10. The foundation stage of the Union was completed with the entry into force of its Constitutive Treaty on 11 March 2011. The focus of Member States is now to develop and meet the plans and programmes of the different councils and working groups, and consolidate its bodies, with special attention to the strengthening of the general secretariat and its attributions.

IV. Observer status in the General Assembly

11. As a regional organization dedicated to the promotion of regional integration and the strengthening of the international presence of the region and its active participation in the consolidation of a world community characterized by multilateralism, the rule of law, peace and international solidarity, the Union of South American Nations fully adheres to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

12. Given the clear complementarity of their shared goals, the granting of observer status in the General Assembly to the Union of South American Nations would initiate a mutually beneficial institutional dialogue between the two organizations. It would also promote coherence of efforts and open avenues for future cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas. Furthermore, obtaining observer status would greatly assist the Union in its endeavours to foster regional initiatives aimed at integration among its Member States.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Union of South American Nations in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Union of South American Nations,

1. *Decides* to invite the Union of South American Nations to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.

United Nations A/66/145

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 July 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session

Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly

Letter dated 11 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum on and description of the International Renewable Energy Agency (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

I would like to request that this letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Al-Jarman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Historical background

1. The proposal for an international agency dedicated to renewable energy was made in 1981 at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi. The idea was further discussed and developed by organizations working in the field of renewable energy.

2. Since 1981, global interest in renewable energy has been increasing, and governments have sought to respond to the growing demand for international cooperation on renewable energy policies, financing and technologies. Several international meetings, such as the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg and the Group of Eight Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, have discussed these issues. The International Conference for Renewable Energies held in June 2004, supported by the International Parliamentary Forum on Renewable Energies, also called for the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

3. Through the combined efforts of Governments across the world, the idea came to life with the establishment of IRENA on 26 January 2009 at its Founding Conference in Bonn, Germany. The founding of IRENA was a significant milestone for world renewable energy deployment and a clear sign that the global energy paradigm was changing as a result of growing commitments from Governments. At the Founding Conference, 75 States representing all parts of the world signed the Agency's statute. Since then, the IRENA statute has been signed by 150 States, of which 80 have ratified the statute to date. The European Union is also a ratifying member of IRENA.

4. The First Assembly of IRENA was held on 4 and 5 April 2011. The Assembly adopted a number of significant decisions, including the Work Programme and a budget totalling $24.9 million. The Assembly also decided that the permanent seat of the Agency would be Abu Dhabi.

Symbols and motto

5. The symbol of IRENA is a blue infinity sign surrounding the world, representing the potential of infinite energy supply through the uptake of renewable energy.

Membership

6. The 151 States and regional organizations that have become engaged in IRENA since its establishment in 2009 are a testimony to the relevance and importance that the majority of United Nations Members place on the IRENA mandate and mission. As at July 2011, 80 Member States and the European Union had ratified the statute: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Iceland, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Palau, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

7. The following States are signatories to the statute: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Organizational structure

8. The principal organs of IRENA are the Assembly, the Council and the Secretariat. The Assembly, comprising the members of IRENA, is the supreme organ of the Agency. The Council comprises up to 21 members of the Agency, which are elected on a rotating basis for a term of two years. The Secretariat comprises a Director-General, who is its head and chief administrative officer, and such staff as may be required. The Director-General is appointed by the Assembly for a term of four years, renewable for an additional term of four years.

9. The Agency is headquartered in Abu Dhabi and has a Centre for Innovation and Technology in Bonn, Germany.

Mandate

10. Pursuant to articles II and III of its statute, IRENA is mandated with promoting the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, produced from renewable sources in a sustainable manner, which include, inter alia, bioenergy; geothermal energy; hydropower; ocean energy, including tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy; solar energy and wind energy. IRENA discharges its mandate with due regard to:

(a) National and domestic priorities and benefits derived from a combined approach of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures;

(b) The contribution of renewable energy to environmental preservation, through limiting pressure on natural resources and reducing deforestation, particularly tropical deforestation, desertification and biodiversity loss; to climate protection; to economic growth and social cohesion including poverty alleviation and sustainable development; to access to and security of energy supply; to regional development and to inter-generational responsibility.

11. For the benefit of its members, the Agency:

(a) Analyses, monitors and, without obligations on members' policies, systematizes current renewable energy practices, including policy instruments, incentives, investment mechanisms, best practices, available technologies, integrated systems and equipment, and success-failure factors;

(b) Initiates discussion and ensures interaction with other governmental and non-governmental organizations and networks in this and other relevant fields;

(c) Provides relevant policy advice and assistance to its members upon their request, taking into account their respective needs, and stimulates international discussions on renewable energy policy and its framework conditions;

(d) Improves pertinent knowledge and technology transfer and promotes the development of local capacity and competence in member States including necessary interconnections;

(e) Offers capacity-building including training and education to its members;

(f) Provides to its members upon their request advice on the financing for renewable energy and supports the application of related mechanisms;

(g) Stimulates and encourages research, including on socio-economic issues, and fosters research networks, joint research, development and deployment of technologies;

(h) Provides information about the development and deployment of national and international technical standards in relation to renewable energy, based on a sound understanding through an active presence in the relevant forums.

12. Furthermore, the Agency disseminates information and increases public awareness on the benefits and potential offered by renewable energy.

Advantages for the United Nations in granting observer status to the International Renewable Energy Agency

13. Pursuant to article IV of the statute, IRENA performs its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international cooperation, in conformity with policies of the United Nations that further sustainable development. In pursuit of its mandate, IRENA complements global and sectoral mandates and strategies of the United Nations and its departments, programmes and agencies, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Bank.

14. There is clear potential for close cooperation between the United Nations and IRENA. Identifying synergies and coordinating activities would ensure efficient use of resources and coherence in addressing major challenges such as fighting climate change, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development by tapping into the potential that renewable energy offers. IRENA is a fully committed global partner with expertise that can help address these challenges.

Advantages for the International Renewable Energy Agency in obtaining observer status in the General Assembly

15. The following of and participation in the relevant aspects of the work of the General Assembly and related United Nations processes would enable IRENA to be more incisive in pursuing its mission and help ensure that its work is effectively integrated in global efforts in development cooperation and the promotion of sustainable development. Identifying opportunities for partnership and cooperation with United Nations entities and associated organizations and networks with related aims would be instrumental to advancing the Agency's mission.

16. Ultimately, by obtaining observer status with the United Nations, IRENA would become more efficient and effective in pursuit of its mission to promote the widespread and increased adoption of renewable energy with a view to sustainable development.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the International Renewable Energy Agency in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Considering the unique status of the International Renewable Energy Agency and its mission to promote the adoption and use of renewable energy with a view to sustainable development,

Convinced of the benefits of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Renewable Energy Agency,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Renewable Energy Agency to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.